PROF. FESSENDEN BURIED IN BERMUDA

Bay State Inventor and Leader in Wireless Field Honored at Funeral Service.

CONTESTED MANY CLAIMS

Received Scientific American Medal for Promoting Safety at Sea—Called "Greater Than Marconi."

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAMILTON, Bermuda, July 23.—Professor Reginald Aubrey Fessenden, 65 years old, noted physicist, engineer and radio experimenter of North Newton, Mass., and Flatts Village, Bermuda, died suddenly yesterday on his Bermuda estate. Burial took place today after a funeral service in historic St. Mark's Church, Smiths Parish, attended by a large congregation of American and Bermudian friends.

Began Wireless Work In 1898.

Professor Fessenden was noted for his early radio experiments at Brant Rock, Mass. He had been described recently by Elihu Thomson, head of the General Electric Company's laboratories at Lynn, Mass., as "the greatest wireless inventor of the age—greater than Marconi." His wireless work began in 1898, prior to which time he had been connected with Thomas Alva Edison, as head chemist at the East Orange (N. J.) laboratories. For several years he was engaged in electrical manufacturing work and later was professor of electrical engineering at Purdue University and the University of Pittsburgh. His first wireless experiments were carried on off the coast of South Carolina and Virginia. The Wright brothers were experimenting with their airplanes at Kitty Hawk near by, and the three inventors became close friends.

From there, Professor Fessenden went to Brant Rock. Two other wireless stations were built, one in Scotland, the other on the coast of Florida. He carried on experiments for a long period and perfected a radio receiver which was reputed to be 2,000 times as sensitive as that of Marconi.

Professor Fessenden was born at Milton, Que., Canada, on Oct. 6, 1866, son of the Rev. E. J. and Clementina Trenholme Fessenden. He was educated at Bishop's College, near Sherbrooke, Que., and became principal of Whitney Institute, Bermuda, in 1885. From 1886 until 1887 he worked with Mr. Edison, becoming electrician of Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company in 1890, holding that position for nine years.

Once Agent for Weather Bureau.

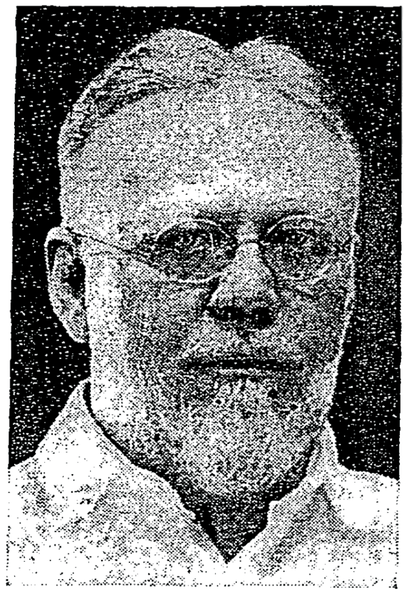
He was special agent for the United States Weather Bureau from 1900 to 1902. He was general manager of the National Electric Signaling Company from 1902 until 1910, and became consulting engineer for the Submarine Signal Company in 1910.

About 300 inventions were attributed to Professor Fessenden. In several instances there were important legal actions, notably one taken by Professor Fessenden against the Radio Corporation of America and other communication companies for $60,000,000, in which he asserted that he was being prevented from selling devices based on his short-wave patents. The suit was settled out of court.

In October, 1929, Professor Fessenden received the Scientific American Gold Medal for promoting safety at sea. His contributions in this field were the fathometer, an electrical device for obtaining quick and accurate soundings for vessels; direction finders, electrical and radio devices and compasses.

Professor Fessenden declared that the first aerial telephone was first used in 1900, and that transmission by this means was first carried out in 1905.

He is survived by his widow and a son, Reginald K. Fessenden.



PROFESSOR R. A. FESSENDEN.